

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim Status

Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 14-19, 26-34, and 36-38 stand rejected and claims 20-25 stand withdrawn from further consideration. Claims 4-7, 10-13, 35 and 39 stand objected to but allowable if appropriately rewritten. Applicant appreciates the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1-3, 9, 16-17, and 26-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,102,708 to Kimura, hereinafter "Kimura," in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,102,708 to Behl, hereinafter "Behl." Claims 8, 14-15, 18-19, and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of Behl and U.S. Patent No. 4,915,639 to Cohn et al., hereinafter "Cohn."

Claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 16, 32, and 33 have been amended. Claims 3, 4, 10, 34, and 35 have been canceled. No new matter has been added.

Rejections

Claim 1, as amended, includes the features of claim 4 which has been indicated by the examiner as being allowable (office action at page 4, paragraph 5). Claim 16, as amended, also includes the features of claim 4. Therefore, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 1 and 16 and claims dependent therefrom, including claims 2, 5-8, 17-19, 26, 27, 30, 31, and 36-39.

Claim 9, as amended, includes the features of claim 10 which has been indicated by the examiner as being allowable (office action at page 4, paragraph 5). Therefore, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claim 9 and claims dependent therefrom, including claims 11-15, 28, and 29.

Claim 32 and 33, as amended, includes the features of claim 35 which has been indicated by the examiner as being allowable (office action at page 4, paragraph 5). Therefore, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of claims 32 and 33.

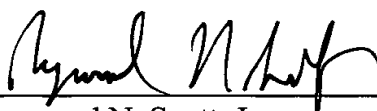
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PATENT

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early notice of allowance are respectfully requested. In the event that the examiner cannot allow the present application for any reason, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney, Raymond N. Scott Jr. at (215) 564-8951, to discuss resolution of any remaining issues.

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